May 9, 1968

Dear Hal,

Steve Burton phoned me about two days ago and said that Loran Hall had left for New Orleans to testify. I've seen nothing in the local press here about this latest development but it looks like a good break for the pro-Garrison forces. Have you seen anything there concerning this?

Several days ago I did catch the tail-end of a radio program which said that Hall had identified the voice of the Miami, November 9 tape and that it was the same man who was in on a plot to kill JFK he heard in Los Angeles prior to the assassination. Included in the same radio report I heard was the statement that there was a tape made in Los Angeles of a threat on the life of President Kennedy which Garrison was getting. Steve asked me to come down to Los Angeles and obtain the tape which Hathcock promised me and I presume this may be the same one. This tape was to be exclusively that of mine and Dave Lifton's (It was Lifton who set up the meeting). So far Dave still has not received it nor, of course, have I. I've written Dave asking him to get in touch with Hathcock and arrange to have him meet with me since I plan on being in Los Angeles within two or three days from now.

As I indicated before Hathcock had a very extensive file and knew both Howard and Hall. If there are any questions you think I should ask him see if you can ask them so that I can have them ready when I'm down there. This may not give you ample time to write me while I'm still here but sine I hope to be there by Saturday perhaps you ought to send a letter to Steve Burton for me and I can pick it up there.

I've managed to check out the Youngblood you requested me to look into. There was XX, indeed, a Walter A. Youngblood as Gary Murr indicated in his letter to both you and me. I'll herewith indicate the stories that appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on him, as follows:

S.F. Chronicle, December 15, 1960

"MEXICAN ADVENTURE - JUNGLE ESCAPE TOLD AT FRAUD TRIAL OF FLYER"

"A tangled tale of intrigue, marked by such exotic elements as a harrowing jungle escape and an armadillo feast, was told in Federal Court here yesterday.

It was outlined in testimony taken at the fraud trial of Walter A. Youngblood, a soldier of fortune flyer who says he once ran guns to Fidel Castro's revolutionaries in Cuba.

James H. Forester, 41, a Florida businessman, siad he ~~xxxx~~ first met Youngblood in an Akron, Ohio, cocktail lounge.

Forester said Youngblood told him that he and a partner had lost a two-engine Piper Apache plane in the jungle on the Mexico-Guatemala border.

Aboard the plane, Youngblood added, had been two Cleveland gangsters fleeing with $8,000 in cash. Both were killed, but Youngblood asserted his injured partner had been taken out by Indians.

His interest whetted, Forester said he flew Youngblood down to Mexico several days later to look for the plane and its load of treasure.

But three days of flying over the area brought no results, Forester testified. So they turned the trip into a hunting safari only to have their own plane crash deep in the jungle. With little for food, Youngblood, Forester and a companion had to hack their way out.

"If it hadn't been for Jack(Youngblood), we never would have mad eit out of the jungle," Forester testified.

But Assistant U.S. Attorney John Kaplan said he intends to prove the story of the lost plane with its money was just a hoax, and that Youngblood took Forester for at least $3,000.

Youngblood is specifically accused of using the wires to defraud another man in the same "lost plane" plot.

The trial is being held before a jury of "men and one woman in the court of Federal Judge Louis E. Goodman."

(Article above contains a photo caption of Youngblood that reads:"Walter Youngblood - Hero or Cheat?").

S.F. Chronicle, December 22, 1960

"DRAMATIC END TO TRIAL - Youngblood calls it off, Admits Treasure Hoax"

Walter A. Youngblood dramatically halted his fraud trial yesterday and admitted his story of a treasure lost in a plane crash in the Mexican jungle was all a hoax.

After the noon recess, Youngblood's attorney, Al J. Zirpoli, informed the court that the 30-year old promoter from Miami was ready to plead guilty to using the wires to defraud.

Youngblood apparently spared himself a sure conviction as jurors said they were agreed that his story was a hoax. The trial was in its sixth day.

Federal Judge Louis E. Goodman set January 17 as the date for sentencing and a probation report. The maximum penalty: five years and a $10,000 fine.

Judge Goodman allowed Youngblood to remain free on $7,500 bail, admonishing him to stay out of trouble, "having in mind your adventurous activities."

He was referring to Youngblood's adventures in persuading victims to pungle(sic) up sizable sums for fruitless expeditions in search of a light palne that supposedly crashed in the jungle near the Guatemalan border with $800,000 in cash abroad.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Kaplan said he was ready to prove that a spurious story the same in every detail, had appeared in a men's magazine six months before Youngblood began using it as bait.

After the jurors left, Youngblood told Kaplan:"I just want you to know that you have prosecuted this case very fairly and, needless to say, effectively."

"Donate your energies to honest living," Kaplan replied, "and you could amke that million."

Earlier in the day, Youngblood said he had been paid about $100,000 in 1953 and 1954 for helping rebel leader Castillo Armas overthrow the Guatemalan government of Jacobo Arbenz. He said he had never filed an American tax return listing the income."

(Article above contains a photo caption of Youngblood that reads:"Walter Youngblood - Too Deep in the Jungle").

This was all that I could find on Youngblood. Incidentally,

regarding the setting of the date for sentencing(January 17, 1961), I checked the Cronicle to see if there was any story on this but there wasn't any. I don't know what the outcome of this trial was but perhaps his lawyer (Zirpoli) should be contacte on this. I would suggest that Jonn Christian look into this if he can. I'll speak to him regarding this before I leave for Los Angeles.

You wanted to obtain a photo of Youngblood. Both articles contain a photo of Youngblood which are identical and I visited the Chronicle library where the photo is stored. The photo of Youngblood is part of a photo of Youngblood and his lawyer standing next to each other, presumably outside the court room.

I checked on the price for a copy of the photo of Youngblood and they quoted me the following figures. For a glossy 8x10 the cost is $5.25. For the same size photo ina dull finish it would cost $6.30. They said in either case it would take about two weeks to receive the photo if I put an order in.

This seemed quite expensive but I couldn't afford either one and I told her I would let her know. She said a microfilm copy of the Chronicle could be zeroxed at a price of $1.00 but this would be of the articles only on Youngblood and <u>not</u> the photos.(On this zeroxing I'm sure I could get a better price quote on Zerox but perhaps this standard for microfilm reproduction costs).

You'll be intersted in learning that I finally got to meet with Moss Martin who called you on the Jim Eason show. Martin was unable to be of any help since he said he really knew nothing about Shaw being in town except for recalling a column by Herb Caen that mentioned a Turkish bath club being connected with the Garrison case and that this might refer to a place in S.F. known as "The Club" on 140 Turk Street (which is not toofar away from where that cab driver said he left Jack Ruby off a few days before the assassination, if we are to believe the cabbie's story).

You will be interested in knowing that Wesley Liebeler spoke yesterday at Mills College (an all-girl school) at which both I, Paul Koch and Bob Douthitt were present. I brought my tape along and will check to see how the quality of it is and if it came out I'll send you a copy. I imagine that Paul will send you some notes on this.

Liebeler was not as harsh on Garrison as he was previously. This time he said something to the effect that while Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of President Kennedy Garrison could conceivably find some evidence of <u>other</u> plots brewing to kill ~~GARRISON~~ JFK around Los Angeles which he said he wouldn't find hard to believe since he knew something about the Los Angeles area.

I asked him if he knew that Dave Ferrie had connections with the CIA-sponsored Cuban Revolutionary Council and that Ferrie also knew Arcacha Smith why did he not question Ferrie as a potential witness in an assassination attempt. I pointed out that both Ferrie and Oswald used the 544 Camp Street and Liebeler explained that there were lots of witnesses in New Orleans he didn't call to testify. He then said "But, I wish I had"(referring to Ferrie).

Liebeler also invoked the use of ~~the~~ an often-repeated theme of defenders of the Warren Commission saying that the Commission had never ruled out a conspiracy in its final report only saying that it could find no <u>evidence</u> of any conspiracy.

Last night (or rather Tuesday night) Lane spoke at a junior college and was well received. I met many people after who wanted to work with me in helping in whatever way they could. These are

persons who have not been involved in this case before and are familiar with some work that has been done by Lane but not much by anyone else such as yourself. They were expressing great frustration at seeing little being done until I talked with them. I told them to set up a chapter in the name of the Citizens Commitee under local control and to contact Steve Burton. They had already set up a committee under a different name until I mentioned my suggestion. I suggested they get your works and study them.

I just picked up a copy of today's S.F. Chronicle and a story in it says that Garrison had "tentatively" set the trial for June 11. Do you know anything more on this? Lane said the other night that Shaw's lawyers had appealed to the Federal Court (May 7) on the change of venue and that this was an "unprecedented" move. He stated that if the Federal Court approved it would be the "end of the case".

Here are some notes of other items I have looked into which I'll pass along to you:

If you have ever wanted to establish the fact that Regis Kennedy was in New Orleans on Novemeber 22, 1963 at the Marcello trial you can find this in CD301 (P.289). I recall that you wanted some documentation on just which FBI agents were there.

For your Department of Coincidence file: Henry Cabot Lodge stayed at the St. Francis Hotel on Nov.22 which is where Shaw also stayed.

Somewher in one of your letters you wanted to learn more about anyone who had possibly conversed with Oswald in Russian while he was in the Marine Corps. If you'll refer to ~~x~~ CD1076 you'll notice a reference to Erwin Donald Lewis of Anaheim, California. When I was in Los Angeles the last time I heard an interview (on tape) of him and it turns out that he knew Thornley also. They were all in the same MACS-9 unit at El Toro. He was asked if he knew John Reine Heindel but did not recall him. Lewis did recall a real stocky individual at the base who seemed to have a Russian name who spoke Russian possibly with Oswald. He could not recall this precisely except to remember that the man was about 6 feet tall weighed 220 pounds had dark, brown hair and wore thick glasses. He said he recalled this Russian-speaking person around June, 1959. He also said that this person was a radar technician. Unfortunately I cannot obtain the tape since Dave Lifton will not release it and he is the owner of it. However, Anaheim is close to where Steve Burton lives and Lewis is listed in the phone book. Perhaps Steve can visit him if you think it worthwhile.

In another letter you commented that Thornley had shown the manuscript of his book to a certain person(I cannot locate this as of the moment) before he had his book on Oswald published. You indicated that this was the only one he had shown it to. I've learned of another person he showed it to who was a professor at UCLA(name unknown) and I believe, in the Department of English. I hope to be able to learn more about this person but I cannot do so until I get to Los Angeles. An interesting fact (if my memory serves me correctly) is that this same person recommended a certain lawyer to help Thornley in his defense against Garrison, and as I recall this person was formerly government-connected. I'll pin this information down when I get to Los Angeles, however, so my accuracy of recollection may not be total in this instance. As I recall the professor had a Jewish sounding last name.

All the ~~xxxxxx~~ names you mentioned in your letter to Paul Hoch you wished me to look into do not ring a bell. On one, it seems to me that I recall a reference to a Juan Calixbas somewhere in Oswald's

Mexican travels(in the volumes). The name you gave was a Deyahn Calixtas(aka Dion(e) Turner). These names have been passed on to Jim Schmitt to see if he can utilize his photographic memory to advantage.

Well, this is all the news I have from this end of the Coast for now. I'll be writing to you xxafter I return from Los Angeles and see what can be turned up there.

Hope that you and your wife are fine.

Best,
Hal Verb
Hal Verb